

# Oregon Secretary of State



## Contact

Oregon Business Registry  
A Service of the Oregon Secretary of State  
Corporation Division  
255 Capitol St NE, Salem, OR 97310  
(503)986-2200  
[Contact Us](#)

## Starting a Business in Oregon

### Steps for Setting up your Business

When starting a new business, there are important decisions to make and rules and procedures to be addressed. First and foremost, are you required to register your business in Oregon? Although there is no single source for all filing requirements, the following steps will assist in starting your business.

#### 1. Select your business name and structure

**Choose a business structure.** Select a business entity type from the following list for an overview of the principal types of legal business structures in Oregon. We recommend a legal representative and accountant be consulted before determining the type of business entity to form.

- Sole proprietorship
- Corporation
- Nonprofit
- Limited liability company (LLC)
- Limited partnership (LP)
- General partnership
- Limited liability partnership (LLP)

Choose a business name. Check the **Business Registry Database** for name availability:  
[http://egov.sos.state.or.us/br/pkg\\_web\\_name\\_srch\\_inq.login](http://egov.sos.state.or.us/br/pkg_web_name_srch_inq.login)

**Business Name Search**

**Search for a Business Name in the Business Registry Database**

**or part of a business name, or a registry number.**

Business Name

or

Registry Number

[Search Help](#) [Other Government Databases](#)

[Associated Business Search](#)  
[By Business](#)  
[By Individual](#)

**Search Methods (More restrictive to Less restrictive):**

[Business Name Availability Check](#). Very restrictive. Positional. Only (As keyed).

Exact words in exact word order. (Only. As keyed) Fastest.

Exact words in exact word order. (Followed by anything else)

Exact words in any word order.

Search for **Active** and **Inactive** businesses.

Search for **Active** businesses only.

Search for **Inactive** businesses only.

Note: Sole proprietors may conduct business under their own name or choose an **Assumed Business Name (ABN)**.

## 2. Register your business

To register an **assumed business name**, submit an assumed business name application and a non-refundable processing fee of **\$50** to the Corporation Division. The name must be registered in at least one Oregon county, but you can register for all Oregon counties for no additional charge. If the name is distinguishable and the application completed according to Oregon law, the Corporation Division processes the document and returns an acknowledgment to the customer. **To file an ABN online, go to:**

**[https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oim/login?oimAction=renew&p\\_a\\_cd=CBR&p\\_fp\\_gurl=https://secure.sos.state.or.us/cbrmanager/login.action](https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oim/login?oimAction=renew&p_a_cd=CBR&p_fp_gurl=https://secure.sos.state.or.us/cbrmanager/login.action)**

The Oregon Secretary of State's Corporation Division is the place to register your corporation, nonprofit, limited liability company, LLC partnership, and more. To form a domestic **limited liability company (LLC)** in Oregon, submit articles of organization and a non-refundable processing fee of **\$100** to the Corporation Division. **To register a business name online, go to:**

**[https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oim/login?oimAction=renew&p\\_a\\_cd=CBR&p\\_fp\\_gurl=https://secure.sos.state.or.us/cbrmanager/login.action](https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oim/login?oimAction=renew&p_a_cd=CBR&p_fp_gurl=https://secure.sos.state.or.us/cbrmanager/login.action)**

## 3. Learn your tax obligations

Understanding tax obligations is important for any business.

- Requirements to report personal property to county assessor's office.
- Check other taxes that may apply to your business.

Most businesses need to apply to the Internal Revenue Service for a federal Employer Identification Number (EIN). You can apply online through the IRS. For more information:

## 4. Check what licenses, permits or certifications you need

Many occupations and business activities require licenses, permits or certifications from state agencies or boards. The state of Oregon has a searchable License Directory with over 1,100 licenses, permits and certifications. The Business Information Center also provides state license requirements.

Cities and counties may also require businesses to have a license or permit. Check with your city for more information.